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Between the Lines

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Congress 'Manipulated,' Miss Roosevelt Says

By
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Propaganda Job

She Accuses Intellectuals

Larson's Testimony

Washington — How United States policy is made can be understood once you know the formula. It boils down to a few smooth techniques for manipulating the Congress and molding opinion. They work something like this.

A group of American intellectuals meet with Soviet officials at supposedly "unofficial" international conferences. The same names pop up year after year. "Tacit understandings" ensue which are announced at official conferences later—after a suitable climate has been achieved in the United States. "Tacit understandings" are recommended in the by now notorious Phoenix papers prepared for the U. S. Disarmament Agency.

U. S. conference participants return home and set about implementing the policies. Some of these delegates are always already members of the government. Others are linked to it through the Central Intelligence Agency.



Miss Roosevelt

Simultaneously, a public relations program is instituted to "condition" the public to accept the proposals. A typical device is the subsidized publication of a scholarly book advocating the measures already decided upon. The author may be an ex-State Department official or some specialist in psychological warfare. What is actually a skillful and carefully planned propaganda job is usually financed either by a foundation or by a government grant to a publishing house. (The Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has had such an arrangement for many years with the CIA under Project Genis.)

A lobby group is set up in Washington, D. C., to funnel expert witnesses to testify before congressional committees, plant assistants in congressional offices and cooperate with federal officials in drafting bills for busy congressmen.

A surprising proportion of this key legislation is passed by the Congress. Some legislators are so busy being errand boys to their constituents they barely read the laws or documents to which they affix their signatures. In many cases they lack the background to detect how seemingly isolated pieces of legislation when put together can change our form of government.

Press Involved

With this pattern in mind, one might watch the development of a proposal that would actually place our news media

under international control. The cover for this would be a projected disarmament agreement with Soviet Russia.

At the eighth Pugwash Conference, Sept. 11-16, 1961, American and Soviet intellectuals agreed that a joint research group should consider these specific questions. One of the most significant perhaps was "development of international criminal law applicable directly to individuals violating the disarmament agreement or committing crimes against peace."

Incidental importance was a proposal for "limitation of propaganda directed against other nations or races."

A proposal for joint research on these questions was actually signed. The signatories for the Soviet Union were A. B. Topchiev and F. M. Khvostov. For the United States, they included Dr. Louis B. Sohn and Dr. Harrison Brown. Both Americans are on the Advisory Committee of the Peace Research Institute (PRI), now known as the Institute for Policy Studies. This tax-exempt corporation in Washington has been conducting seminars in disarmament for congressional assistants. Dr. Sohn, a professor of international law at Harvard, is also a consultant to the Disarmament Agency.

Significantly, another step is the "selling" of the Pugwash type proposals to government officials not sufficiently in the know. On Aug. 16, 1961, Arthur Larson, vice president of PRI and a State Department consultant on United Nations matters, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In hearings on the Disarmament Agency, he outlined suggested topics for research. These included "Case Studies of the Role of Public Opinion in the Outbreak of Modern Wars" and "The Foreign Correspondents: A Study of Opinions, Attitudes, Recruitment and Social Composition."

Since then I have learned that the Disarmament Agency gave a grant to Bendix systems for a study on the subject of "Media Analysis in Inspection for Disarmament." Under Project Michelson, a major behavioral research project, the Defense Department gave a grant to Stanford University for "Propaganda Comparison of Soviet-American Ideologies."

Book Published

Then comes the time for the proposal to be made respectable to the public. A book has been published entitled "Propaganda — Towards Disarmament in the War of Words," by John B. Whitton and Arthur Larson. It is financed by grants from the tax-exempt Institute for International Order, in New York City, of which the same Larson is a

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